



Eckington
Civic Association

February 6, 2022

Co-Chairs Nolan Treadway, Rafi Crockett, Sandi Washington, Temi Bennett and distinguished members of the Ward 5 ANC Redistricting Committee,

Thank you for the service that you are undertaking on behalf of Ward 5 communities this winter and spring. I am writing on behalf of the Eckington Civic Association and its members to convey our hope that you will embrace changes to ANC 5E that will encourage greater public participation in commission meetings and ensure that the commission does not become unmanageably large.

According to the 2020 census, Eckington is now home to over 7,000 residents. And although those are the numbers that by law must govern redistricting, it bears noting that five large residential buildings were completed after the census in the southeast corner of our neighborhood. When those buildings are fully occupied in a year's time, Eckington will likely be home to 9,000 residents.

Census figures also show that ANC 5E, the Commission that currently includes Eckington, is now home to nearly 26,000 residents. If its boundaries are left unchanged, ANC 5E would grow from an already large 10 person commission to a 13-member commission—the highest in the city and well above the normal 6-8 member range.¹

Eckington residents and members of the civic association already experience tremendous difficulty participating in ANC 5E meetings due in part to its large size. Sometimes Eckington residents have to attend a meeting for three or four hours to have the opportunity to be heard. Oftentimes the agenda items that most interest residents are placed at the end of the meeting. A 13 member commission would make those challenges to public participation in ANC meetings even worse. Two commissions—one composed of 6 members and another of 7—would be better suited to hear and advance the interests of local residents of Eckington and its sister neighborhoods.

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<https://ggwash.org/view/83332/why-we-should-increase-the-number-of-ward-5-advisory-neighborhood-commissions>

The Eckington Civic Association therefore strongly encourages you to ensure that Eckington is served by a smaller commission—not a larger one—and to ensure that all of Eckington’s single member districts are part of the same commission. An easy way to achieve those goals is to split ANC 5E into two new advisory neighborhood commissions and place Eckington’s 3.5 single member districts in one of those commissions.

The Eckington Civic Association has not endorsed a particular approach to splitting ANC 5E; however, we would welcome the opportunity to understand what options you are considering and to provide feedback for the committee to consider at future meetings.

Best regards,

Conor Shaw
President
Eckington Civic Association